

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03857 301547Z

44

ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 105661

O R 301420Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9833

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3857

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XG, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION:AMERICAN ROLE IN LEBANON

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS, PREOCCUPIED WITH LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION MANEUVERS, HAS LITTLE TODAY ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN LEBANON OTHER THAN REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN SCHEDULED RETURN TO BEIRUT IN FIRST HALF OF MAY AND THAT U.S. MAKING INITIAL \$20 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO REBUILDING LEBANON, CONDITIONAL ON END TO FIGHTING AND LEBANESE NEUTRALITY IN ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. NAME OF AMBASSADOR BROWN FIGURES IN CONTINUED PUBLIC DISPUTE BETWEEN SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUMBLATT, BUT LATER REMAINS CAREFUL TO USE IT IN WAY WHICH WILL NOT DAMAGE HIS OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR OR U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. NEARLY ALL BEIRUT DAILIES CARRY APPARENTLY ACCURATE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS QUOTING STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO LEBANON DURING FIRST HALF OF MAY AND THAT IT IS UNCERTAIN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03857 301547Z

WHETHER SPEEDY SENATE APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR MELOY'S

NOMINATION WILL AFFECT AMBASSADOR BROWN'S SCHEDULE.

3. MOST PAPERS ALSO CARRY AFP WASHINGTON REPORT THAT U.S. PROVIDING INITIAL \$20 MILLION FOR AID TO LEBANON AS PART OF RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT VIA UN AND WHICH MIGHT TOTAL HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. REPORT QUOTES STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING PROGRAM FIRST REQUIRES END OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S NEUTRALITY TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. SOME LEFTIST PAPERS PEG HEADLINES TO LATTER POINT. LEFTIST "AS SAFIR" HEADLINES "WASHINGTON BARGAINING ON ARABISM OF LEBANON AS CONDITION TO HELP IT MATERIALLY."

4. PRO-RIAQI DAILY "BEIRUT" WRITES OF "SECOND PHASE OF AMERICAN PLANNING IN LEBANON" AS FOLLOWS: "THIS PHASE CALLS FOR ELECTION OF NEW (LEBANESE) PRESIDENT, WHO SUPPORTS AMERICAN POLICY AND WORKS WITHIN LINES DRAW UP BY WASHINGTON WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON AND MIDDLE EAST. US WANTS NEW PRESIDENT TO SIGN SECRET AGREEMENT FOR ENTRY OF FOREIGN FORCES INTO LEBANON TO MAINTAIN SECURITY TO REBUILD ARMY AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. IN REALITY THESE FORCES ARE TO CONTAIN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND FORCE IT TO CONCLUDE PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. PLAN INCLUDES NAMES OF CANDIDATES AGREEABLE TO U.S., AT TOP OF WHICH IS THAT OF ELIAS SARKIS."

5. SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND KAMAL JUMBLATT CONTINUE THEIR VERBAL WAR, EACH FREELY INVOKING NAME OF AMBASSADOR BROWN TO ATTACK OTHER. INTERESTINGLY JUMBLATT, THOUGH STRESSING BROWN'S APPROVAL FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVES, AS YET HAS REFRAINED FROM ANY DEROGATORY COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR, HIS ROLE OR THEIR CONVERSATIONS.

6. REPORTING SYRIAN SIDE OF DISPUTE, LEADING BEIRUT INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" PICKS UP ARTICLE FROM DAMASCUS NEWSPAPER "TISHREEN" WHICH INTER ALIA "EXPRESSES REGRET THAT SOME PARTIES (READ JUMBLATT) IN LEBANON CONSIDER SETTING OF DATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SATURDAY TO BE 'FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS WHILE AT SAME TIME CONSIDERING BROWN'S INITIATIVE TO BE PURELY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03857 301547Z

INTERNAL LEBANESE ISSUE."

7. "AN NAHAR" QUOTES JUMBLATT'S REPLY TO PREVIOUS DAY'S ATTACK IN ANOTHER DAMASCUS PAPER AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS NO USE FOR SYRIAN DAILY 'ATH THAWRA' TO COVER UP THIS CONSPIRACY BY ATTACKING DEAN BROWN OR AMERICANS, BECAUSE WE NEVER MET MR. BROWN OR OTHER AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN LEBANON WITHOUT HEARING THEM REPEATEDLY

RECOMMEND TO US NECESSITY OF OUR REACHING UNDERSTANDING
WITH OUR SYRIAN BROTHERS, HEADING THEIR OPINIONS, TAKING
THEIR ADVICE AND FACILITATING THEIR MEDIATION...AND WHEN
WE READ ISRAELI PRESS WE FIND IN IT A BLESSING FOR
EVERYTHING TAKING PLACE (UNDER SYRIAN INFLUENCE) IN
LEBANON.
WARING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0171
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976045/aaaaadfk.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <15 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION:AMERICAN ROLE IN LEBANON
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XG, LE, US
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006